

REMARKS

By this response, Applicants have not amended the claims. As a result, claims 20-32 remain pending in this application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 22, 23, 26, and 27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in these claims.

Further, the Office rejects claims 20, 21, and 31-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,523,589 (Edmond) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,359,292 (Sugawara). In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the Office must show that (1) every feature is taught or suggested by Edmond and/or Sugawara; (2) Edmond, Sugawara, or generally available knowledge suggests or motivates the modification(s); and (3) one would have a reasonable expectation of success. MPEP 2143. Because the Office fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 20, 21, and 31-32.

In particular, with respect to claim 20, the Office fails to show that every feature of the claimed invention is taught or suggested by Edmond and/or Sugawara. For example, the Office acknowledges that Edmond fails to teach or suggest the claimed quaternary layer on the buffer layer. The Office then cites Sugawara's layer 105 as allegedly teaching the claimed quaternary layer. However, Applicants note that in Sugawara's device, there are three layers between layer 105 and the device's GaN buffer layer 102. Sugawara, FIG. 1; col. 3, lines 64-67. In sharp contrast, Applicants' claimed quaternary layer is on the buffer layer.

In light of the above, even if, *arguendo*, the combination of Edmond and Sugawara is proper, such a combination fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention. As a result, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 20, 21, and 31-32 as allegedly being unpatentable over the combination of Edmond and Sugawara.

Further, the Office fails to show any proper motivation in Edmond, Sugawara or the generally available knowledge for the proposed combination. As the Federal Circuit discussed extensively in *In re Lee*, 277 F.3d 1338; 61 U.S.P.Q.2D (BNA) 1430 (Fed. Cir. 2002), “[w]hen patentability turns on the question of obviousness, the search for and analysis of the prior art includes evidence relevant to the finding of whether there is a teaching, motivation, or suggestion to select and combine the references relied on as evidence of obviousness.” Citing *In re Dance*, 160 F.3d 1339, 1343, 48 U.S.P.Q.2D (BNA) 1635, 1637 (Fed. Cir. 1998), the *Lee* Court goes on to state that “there must be some motivation, suggestion, or teaching of the desirability of making the specific combination that was made by the applicant”. *Id.*

The need to show the motivation with specificity has long been recognized by the courts. *Id.* For example, the *Lee* Court cites *In re Kotzab* for the legal requirement that “particular findings must be made as to the reason the skilled artisan, with no knowledge of the claimed invention, would have selected these components for combination in the manner claimed”. *Id.*; *In re Kotzab*, 217 F.3d 1365, 1371, 55 U.S.P.Q.2D (BNA) 1313, 1317 (Fed. Cir. 2000). Further, the *Lee* Court cites *In re Rouffet* for the legal requirement that a proper showing of motivation, “even when the level of skill in the art is high, ... must identify specifically the principle, known to one of ordinary skill, that suggests the claimed invention.” *Id.*; *In re Rouffet*, 149 F.3d 1350, 1359, 47 U.S.P.Q.2D (BNA) 1453, 1459 (Fed. Cir. 1998).

In the Office Action, the Office states that such motivation would be to “have a semiconductor device with increased performance.” Office Action, page 3. However, the Office fails to cite any such teaching in Sugawara, Edmond, or the generally available knowledge. Clearly, if Sugawara, Edmond, or the generally available knowledge anticipates such a result from the proposed combination, the prior art would have expressly taught the proposed modification since a semiconductor device with increased performance is inherently desirable. To this extent, the Office’s motivation constitutes a conclusory statement, improperly made with the benefit of the hindsight of Applicants’ claimed invention.

Under *In re Lee* and the related decisions, such a conclusory statement clearly fails to provide the necessary specificity to show the required teaching, suggestion or motivation for the specific combination proposed by the Office. In particular, a desired result (i.e., “device with increased performance”) does not constitute a specific finding or principle that supports the Office’s selection and/or combination of the components from Sugawara or Edmond to obtain the desired result. To this extent, the Office fails to show a proper motivation for the specific combination used by the Office. As a result, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 20, 21, and 31-32 as allegedly being unpatentable over the combination of Edmond and Sugawara.

In view of each of the reasons stated above, either alone or in combination, Applicant respectfully submits that the Office fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. As a result, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 20, 21, and 31-32 as allegedly being unpatentable over the combination of Edmond and Sugawara.

Further, the Office rejects claims 24-25 and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Edmond in view of Sugawara further in view of Japanese Patent No. 11-Serial No. 10/768,944

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243251 (Sasanuma). With respect to claims 24 and 29, Applicants note that the Office relies on the same interpretation of Edmond, Sugawara, and the combination of Edmond and Sugawara as discussed above with reference to claim 20. To this extent, Applicants herein incorporate the arguments presented above with respect to claim 20. Additionally, the Office fails to provide any motivation for the modification of Edmond with Sugawara and Sasanuma for the same reasons presented above with respect to the combination of Edmond and Sugawara.

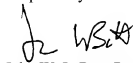
Additionally, even if, *arguendo*, the Office's combination of Edmond, Sugawara, and Sasanuma is proper, Applicants submit that the Office fails to show that the combination teaches every feature of the claimed invention. For example, with respect to claim 24, the Office acknowledges that neither Edmond or Sugawara teaches or suggests the claimed second layer that includes AlGa_N and quaternary layer that includes AlInGa_N on the second layer. However, the Office cites Fig. 6 of Sasanuma as allegedly teaching these features. Applicants note that the English language portion of Sasanuma provided by the Office, which references Fig. 1 of Sasanuma rather than Fig. 6 as apparently alleged by the Office, discloses an InGa_N/InAlGa_N layer combination, not the claimed second layer that includes AlGa_N and quaternary layer that includes AlInGa_N on the second layer. In Fig. 6 of Sasanuma, the various layer combinations comprise InGa_N/AlGa_N layer combinations, which are also different from the claimed second layer that includes AlGa_N and quaternary layer that includes AlInGa_N on the second layer.

In view of each of the reasons stated above, either alone or in combination, Applicants respectfully submit that the Office fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. As a result, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 24 and claims 25 and 28, which depend therefrom, and claim 29 and claim 30, which depends therefrom, as allegedly being unpatentable over Edmond in view of Sugawara further in view of Sasanuma.

Applicants submit that each of the pending claims is patentable for one or more additional unique features. To this extent, Applicants do not acquiesce to the Office's interpretation of the claimed subject matter or the references used in rejecting the claimed subject matter. Additionally, Applicants do not acquiesce to the Office's combinations and modifications of the various references or the motives cited for such combinations and modifications that were not specifically addressed herein. These features and the appropriateness of the Office's combinations and modifications have not been separately addressed herein for brevity. However, Applicants reserve the right to present such arguments in a later response should one be necessary.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. W. LaBatt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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